AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method to ~~identify, monitor and/or~~ remove $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting human blood comprising $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells with ligands specifically binding to one or more members selected from the group consisting of the CD4, ~~and~~ CD25 and~~/or~~ CTLA-4 entities on the T cells; ~~and~~

(b) ~~identifying, monitoring and/or~~ removing said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from the human blood; and

(c) identifying the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T regulatory cells removed from the human blood in step (b) as $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells.

13.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ligands specifically binding to one or more members selected from the group consisting of the CD4, ~~and~~ CD25 and~~/or~~ CTLA-4 entities on the T cells are one or more members selected from the group consisting of anti-CD4 antibodies, ~~and/or~~ anti-CD25 antibodies and~~/or~~ anti-CTLA-4 antibodies.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, whereby said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$

regulatory T cells are removed from the human peripheral blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said method further~~step (c) comprises the step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

(a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;

(b) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;

(c) being in an anergic state;

(d) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;

(e) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;

(f) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;

(g) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized

anti-CD3 antibodies;

(h) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment;

(i) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD8^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment; and

(j) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of $CD4^+CD25^-$ T cells.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said ~~method~~step of testing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said ~~method~~step of testing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said ~~method~~step of testing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+CD25^+$ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-

10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN-γ.

33. (New) A method to remove $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating a population of $CD4^+$ T cells from the blood;

(b) isolating a population of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells from the population of $CD4^+$ T cells isolated in step (a); and

(c) identifying $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells isolated in step (b) as $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells.